

III. REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed October 10, 2004, the outstanding claims of the present application, 1-8, have been rejected pursuant 35 U.S.C. §§ 112, 102, and 103.

With respect to the indication of indefiniteness, Applicant has amended claim 1 as noted above. Accordingly, the problem with insufficient antecedent basis for the “depression” limitation in claims 2-4 has been corrected and these claims should now have sufficient antecedent basis.

Claim 1 is rejected as being anticipated by Bawa et al. For any one or more of the following reasons, and further in view of the foregoing amendment, the Bawa et al reference does not disclose or teach a number of the claimed limitations. Respectfully, the anticipation rejection is traversed.

The following discussion is addressed specifically to claim 1. The claim limitations in claim 1 that are nowhere found in the prior art likewise apply with respect to the examination of claim 2. The absence of claim elements and teaching of claim elements means that claim 1 and its dependency are in condition for allowance.

First, claim 1 requires “a ferrule including a smooth exterior surface”. In Bawa et al. (hereinafter Bawa) the tapered surface of the ferrule includes “a plurality of friction-reducing elements thereon” (Col. 3, lines 58-59) which, in the preferred form, “extend annularly around the tapered surface 42” (Col. 3, line 61) and appear as ridges or bumps on the surface of the ferrule (Fig. 2).

Second, claim 1 requires “the free ends of said inward directed tangs oriented toward said leading end of said tubular body”. Bawa discloses fingers oriented toward the

trailing end of the body (Fig. 1). Bawa's fingers must be oriented toward the trailing end as, with tightening of the gland nut 14, the fingers 46 are contacted by the inclined surface 56 on the interior of the gland nut 14 and squeezed down upon the conduit 16 to secure it therein. Applicant's inward directed tangs have their free ends oriented directly opposite that of Bawa's fingers, or toward the leading end 34 of the tubular body 26 to enable capture of a conduit as it is pushed within the conduit-accepting channel 92. As stated in the present application, "the connector assembly has the advantages of providing a one-piece connector assembly which may be simply installed by pushing a conduit into a channel on the trailing end of the connector and then pushing the leading end of the connector into a knock-out in a panel or junction box" (page 5, lines 11-14).

For one or more of the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that the Bawa reference is not a sufficient reference that may be used as a basis for the anticipation rejection made by the Examiner.

Claims 3-8 have been canceled herein.

Applicant herein has added new claims 9 and 10 to better claim the subject matter of the present application. Accordingly, new claims 9 and 10 include claim limitations that, as described above, are not found in the prior art. Additionally, claim 9 includes the limitation of threads on the outer periphery of the nose portion.

Claim 10 includes the limitation that the retainer body cover includes a non-inclined contact surface engaging the trailing end of the tubular retainer body. The non-inclined surface is clearly shown in the sectional view of the assembled connector in Fig. 8 on the interior surface of the lip 72 of the retainer body cover 30. As described in the

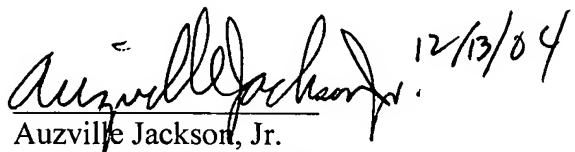
patent application, the connector is supplied fully assembled, with the retainer body cover 30 fully threaded onto the tubular body 26 and the retainer body 28 therefore held securely within the retainer body cover 30. As described in the application, a conduit (shown in Fig. 14), can simply be pushed straight into the channel 92 of the connector 20 to create a liquid tight fit on the trailing end of the connector. This distinguishes over the prior art connectors, as they all require tightening of a retainer with an internal inclined contact surface. There is no internal inclined contact surface in the connector of the present application. As stated in Bawa, “initial engagement is established between the inclined interior surface 56 on the gland nut 14 and the friction-reducing ridges 52” and “continued threadable tightening of the gland nut 14 on the body 12 causes the flexible fingers 46 to compress radially” (Col. 5, lines 26-31). As stated in Favalora, “once conduit 56 is in place in recess 30, take-up nut 14 is completely screwed onto body member 12” (Col. 3, lines 45-47) and “angled surface 48 acts to squeeze resilient walls 34 and 36 of recess 30 to fit within the second end of take-up nut 14. In the connector of the present application, there is no inclined or angled interior surface and there are no flexible fingers or resilient walls to be forced or collapsed inward radially.

IV. CONCLUSION

Based on the amendment and cancellation of claims as presented herein, Applicant respectfully requests the reconsideration of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Should the Examiner require any further information by Applicant or Applicant's undersigned representative regarding this amendment, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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